

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /037 W

-----041200Z 124347 /53

R 040945Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7671

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SOPN, SN

SUBJECT: DENOUEMENT OF HO KWON PING CASE

REF: A) SINGAPORE 1721 B) SINGAPORE 1687

1. HO KWON PING WAS UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASED FROM DETENTION ON APRIL 29. WHILE HIS FUTURE HIS UNCERTAIN, IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WILL RETURN TO UNIVERSITY STUDIES FOR THE NEAR TERM.

2. IN "TRAVELLERS' TALES" COLUMN APPEARING IN MAY 6 ISSUE OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW (FEER), DEREK DAVIES PRESENTED HIS PERCEPTION OF RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH LEE KUAN YEW (REF A). EXPLAINING THAT LEE HAD GIVEN HIM PERMISSION TO MAKE JUDICIOUS USE OF CONVERSATION, DAVIES MANAGED TO PRESENT LEE AND ACTIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN A RELATIVELY SYMPATHETIC LIGHT.

3. ACCORDING TO DAVIES, LEE BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAS IN AFTERMATH OF WATERGATE ASSUMED AN AUTOMATIC, ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT POSTURE THAT GOES WAY BEYOND ITS ROLE AS PUBLIC WATCH DOG. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN COCOMITANT GROWTH OF COMMUNIST AND ULTRA-LEFT WING INFLUENCES IN WESTERN BODY POLITIC WHICH COULD INFECT SINGAPORE. DAVIES STATED THAT LEE HAS CALCULATED THAT HE MAY STILL HAVE TEN YEARS "TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS
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OF A GROWINGLY SOPHISTICATED, LARGELY ENGLISH-EDUCATED POPULATION." IN THAT TIME, SO DAVIES, LEE IS DETERMINED NOT TO AFFORD THE COMUNISTS ANY OPPORTUNITIES.

4. REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE PRESS, THE VIEW ATTRIBUTED BY DAVIES TO LEE IS THAT IT SHOULD REPORT AND QUESTION -- BUT NOT DISTORT. DAVIES IMPLIED THAT THIS IS HIS VIEW AS

WELL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE HAS BEEN RESTORED, PROBABLY WITH GREATER UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES". DAVIES CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT, CONTRARY TO RUMORS THAT LEE IS BEGINNING TO LOSE HIS EDGE, LEE "WAS AS INTELLECTUALLY FORMIDABLE AS EVER".

GRANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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